

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information storage medium comprising:

a read-in area;

a data area consisting of blocks; and

a read-out area,

~~a user area to store user data; and~~

wherein the data area includes a user area and a spare area,

a defective block of the blocks is replaced by a spare block of the spare area,

the read-in area and the read-out area include defect management area sets to be used in due order, each defect management area set ~~including~~ includes first, second, third, and fourth defect management areas to store defect management information,

the read-in area includes the first and second defect management areas of each defect management area set,

the read-out area includes the third and fourth defect management areas of each defect management area set,

wherein upon detection of a defect in a current defect management area set included in the defect management area sets, the current defect management area set is replaced to the next defect management area set of the current defect management area set, the second defect management area is the next defect management area of the first defect management area, and the fourth defect management area is the next defect management area of the third defect management area.

Claims 2-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An information reproduction method for reproducing information from an information storage medium including a read-in area; a data area consisting of blocks; and a read-out area, a user area to store user data; and wherein the data area includes a user area and a spare area, a defective block of the blocks is replaced by a spare block of the spare area, the read-in area and the read-out area include defect management area sets to be used in due order, each defect management area set ~~including~~ includes first, second, third, and fourth defect management areas to store defect management information, the read-in area includes the first and second defect management areas of each defect management area set, the read-out area includes the third and fourth defect management areas of each defect management area set, wherein upon detection of a defect in a current defect management area set included in the defect management area sets, the current defect management area set is replaced to the next defect management area set of the current defect management area set, the second defect management area is the next defect management area of the first defect management area, and the fourth defect management area is the next defect management area of the third defect management area, said method comprising:

reading latest defect management information from the current defect management area set; ~~and~~

~~reproducing user data from the user area on the basis of the latest defect management information.~~

Claims 13-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An information recording method for recording information on an information storage medium including a read-in area; a data area consisting of blocks; and a read-out area, a user area to store user data; and wherein the data area includes a user area and a spare area, a defective block of the blocks is replaced by a spare block of the spare area, the read-in area and the read-out area include defect management area sets to be used in due order, each defect management area set including includes first, second, third, and fourth defect management areas to store defect management information, the read-in area includes the first and second defect management areas of each defect management area set, the read-out area includes the third and fourth defect management areas of each defect management area set, wherein upon detection of a defect in a current defect management area set included in the defect management area sets, the current defect management area set is replaced to the next defect management area set of the current defect management area set, the second defect management area is the next defect management area of the first defect management area, and the fourth defect management area is the next defect management area of the third defect management area, said method comprising:

~~recording the defect management information on the first, second, third, and fourth defect management areas contained in the current defect management area set in an initial state, and~~

detecting the defect in the current defect management area set; and

recording replacing the defect management information of the first, second, third, and fourth defect management areas contained in the current defect

management area set ~~on the first, second, third, and fourth defect management areas~~
~~contained in~~ with the next defect management area set upon the detection of the
defect in the current defect management area set.

Claims 18-22 (Canceled).